

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This amendment supplements the amendment filed on May 10, 2004, which is incorporated herein by reference. The Applicants gratefully appreciate the telephone conversations with Examiner Meislahn and his efforts in reaching an agreement on acceptable claim language. Claim 1 has been amended pursuant to these discussions. Specifically, claim 1 has been further amended to clarify that the nonce is received via the nonce stamp prior to deriving the digital certificate. In the previous amendment, the "nonce" element was amended to clarify that the nonce comprises a "relatively unique number that substantially prevents a single user from accumulating multiple nonce stamps bearing the same nonce." As previously discussed, this language corresponds to the teachings of the pending application that explains, "In the context of the present invention, 'nonce' denotes a number (or other datum) chosen from a good enough distribution to ensure relative 'uniqueness' i.e., a low likelihood that a single user/customer can accumulate multiple nonce stamps bearing the same nonce number." (Pending application at page 6). The purpose of this "nonce" is to ensure security of the digital certificate, i.e., to ensure that illicit copies cannot be made of a digital certificate corresponding to a nonce and used with multiple nonce stamps bearing the nonce. (Pending application at page 10, line 26 - page 11, line 1).

CONCLUSIONS

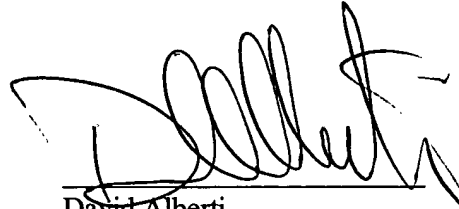
For all of the reasons set forth herein and in the previous amendment, Applicants respectfully assert that all of claims 1-22 are now in condition for allowance. The Examiner's early reconsideration is respectfully requested. If the Examiner has any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' attorney at the following address or telephone number:

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Application No. 09/631,893
Supplemental Amendment for Office action of Feb. 13, 2004
Attorney Docket Number 1190526-991100

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any deficiencies in fees and credit any overpayment of fees to Deposit Account No. 07-1896. A duplicate page is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David Alberti', written over a horizontal line.

David Alberti
Reg. No. 43,465

Dated: July 13 2004



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